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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
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DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /092 W
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P R 081520Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9399
INFO USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BAMAKO 2167

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ML
SUBJ: NEW MALIAN GOVERNMENT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
1. SUMMARY. NEW CABINET INCREASES THE NUMBER OF MALIAN CIVILIAN MINISTERS, MOST OF WHOM ARE YOUNG TECHNOCRATS. VICE-PRESIDENT DIARRA MOVES UP TO MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND A NEW SECRETARIAT OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS IS CREATED TO RELIEVE PRESIDENT MRAORE'S BURDEN AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE, INTERIOR, AND SECURITY. EMBASSY HAS CLOSE TIES WITH MANY OF THE NEW MINISTERS. END SUMMARY

2. RADIO MALI ANNOUNCED MAY 4 THE FOLLOWING NEW MALIAN GOVERNMENT:

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COLONEL MOUSSA TRAORE, PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, INTERIOR, AND SECURITY
LIEUTENANT COLONEL AMADOU BABA DIARRA, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE
LIEUTENANT COLONEL YOUSSOUF TRAORE, MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION
LIEUTENANT COLONEL MAMADOU SANOGO, MINISTER OF JUSTICE

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LIEUTENANT COLONEL MISSA KONE, MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
MR. YAYA BAGAYOKO, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
MR. LAMINE KEITA, MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
MR. AHMED MOHAMED AG HAMANI, MINISTER OF TRUSTEESHIP FOR STATE ENTERPRISED
MR. ALIOUNE BLONDIN BEYE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
MR. FAGNANAMA KONE, MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
MR. ABDOULAYE AMADOU SY, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS
MR. BANDIOUGOU GAKO, MINISTER OF PLAN
MR. ALPHA KONARE, MINISTER OF LABOR AND CIVIL SERVICE
MAJOR SEKOU LY IS DESIGNATED TO THE NEW POSITION OF SECRETARY OF STATE AT THE PRESIDENCY IN CHARGE OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS

END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL
3. THE NEW CABINET, EXPECTED SINCE EVENTS SURROUNDING PREEMPTION OF A COUP PLOT ON FEBRUARY 28 REMOVED THREE MILITARY MINISTERS FROM THE GOVERNMENT, HAS A YOUTHFUL FACE. ALL MILITARY OFFICERS FROM THE FORMER GOVERNMENT HAVE RETAINED THEIR PORTFOLIOS EXCEPT VICE-PRESIDENT BABA DIARRA, WHO LEAVES PLAN TO DIRECT THE LARGER AND MORE CRITICAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE, A MINISTRY HE PREVIOUSLY HEADED FROM 1970 TO 1973. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH MARA, THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION (CMLN) WITHOUT
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SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL POSITION, AGAIN FAILED TO SECURE A MINISTRY. THE MAYOR OF BAMAKO, MAJOR SEKOU LY, THE OFFICER WHO ARRESTED MINISTER OF DEFENSE DOUKARA AND DIRECTOR OF SECURITY SERVICES BAGAYOKO DURING THE FEBRUARY 28 EVENTS, HAS BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS, THUS SHARING PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S LARGE BURDEN IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, INTERIOR, AND SECURITY. OTHERWISE, THE CHANGES HAVE REPLACED OLDER, EXPERIENCED MINISTERS OR FILLED VACANT POSTS WITH WELL-EDUCATED BUT JUNIOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

4. THE CHOICE OF ALIOUNE BLONDIN BEYE FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS POSITION OF FOREIGN MINISTER IS SUPRISING SINCE IT WAS ONLY IN JANUARY THAT HE MOVED INTO TOP RANKS OF MALIAN ADMINISTRATION AS MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE. BEYE, A LAWYER AND BROTHER OF EMBASSY'S CONSULAR ASSISTANT CHEICK BEYE, IS CONSIDERED A BRILLIANT, HARD-WORKING PRAGMATIST. IN HIS FORMER POSITION AS HEAD OF THE LEGAL SECTION IN THE PRESIDENCY, HE TRAVELED WIDELY AS ADVISOR TO MINISTERIAL DELEGATIONS. BBL THERE ARE MANY WITHIN THE MALIAN ADMINISTRATION WHO HAVE MUCH BROADER EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES AND NOW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SEYDOU TRAORE WAS WIDELY CON-

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SIDERED THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE AND IS UNDOUBTEDLY DISAPPOINTED THAT HE WAS NOT CHOSEN.

5. THE MINISTRIES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT; YOUTH, SPORTS, ARTS, AND CULTURE; AND LABOR AND CIVIL SERVICE, WHICH HAVE JUST COMPLETED A CHANGE OF MANY THE OFFICERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE MINISTERIAL CABINETS AND HAVE NOW LOST MINISTERS FOR THE SECOND TIME IN FOUR MONTHS, ARE THE MOST AFFECTED BY THE NEW CHANGES. THE NEW MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FAGNANAMA KONE, WAS FORMERLY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MALIAN TEXTILE COMPANY (CMDT), MALI'S EXTENSION AGENCY FOR COTTON AND HEMP. HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE
BEEN AN EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATOR IN THAT LARGE OPERATION, BUT WHETHER HE HAS THE ABILITY TO MASTER THE MULTI-
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FACETED PROGRAMS OF THE WHOLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY IS NOT KNOWN. THE REMOVAL OF ASSIM DIAWARA IS SURPRISING SINCE HE SEEMED TO BE TAKING OVER THE REINS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH VIGOR AND COMPETENCE.

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----------043704 081727Z /46
P R 081520Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
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AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BAMAKO 2167

6. ALPHA OUMAR KONARE, FORMER CHIEF OF THE ETHNOGRAPHIC DIVISION IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORTS, ARTS, AND CULTURE, IS AN ARCHEOLOGIST-ANTHROPOLOGIST TRAINED IN POLAND AND RECENT RECIPEINT OF AN IV GRANT TO THE UNITED STATES. HE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND GRACIOUS IN DEALING WITH THE EMBASSY ON EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH EXCHANGE PROBLEMS BUT MAY NOT BE TOUGH ENOUGH FOR THE LARGER DEMANDS OF PROGRAMMING FOR MALI'S RESTLESS YOUTH.

7. THE NEW MINISTER OF PLAN, BANDIOUGOU GAKO, HAS HAD NUMEROUS CONTACTS WITH THIS EMBASSY AS DIRECTOR OF MALI'S GRADUATE MENA-GEMENT INSTITUTE. AND IV GRANTEE IN 1975, GAKO HAS WIDE EXPOSURE TO MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS BUT IS CON-SIDERED BY SOME TO BE A BUREAUCRATIC LIGHTWEIGHT AND A PLAYBOY. CERTAINLY, THE MINISTRY OF PLAN'S POWER TO SERVE AS A COORDIN-
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ATING AGENCY FOR GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS KIMINISHED WITH THE DEPAR-TURE OF VICE-PRESIDENT DIARRA FOR THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

8. IT IS DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL OF ABDOULAYE SY AS MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS OR OF THIERNO DIARRA AS MINISTER OF LABOR AND CIVIL SERVICE. SY WAS PREVIOUSLY AN INSPECTOR IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WHILE DIARRA WAS DIRECTOR GENREAL FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION UNTIL THE NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION, LIEUTENANT COLONEL YOUSSOUF TRAORE, REMOVED HIM IN FEBRUARY. BOTH HAVE HAD CLOSE TIES WITH THE EMBASSY. DIARRA WAS A 1977 GRANTEE AND SY HAS TWICE BEEN NOMINATED FOR OPERATION CROSSROADS AFRICA PROGRAMS BUT HAD NOT YET LEFT FOR THE UNITED STATES. THEY ARE BOTH YOUNG, WELL-EDUCATED, BUT WITH NO KNOWN EXPERIENCE IN AREAS THEY NOW SUPERINTEND.

9. THE NEW SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR INTERIOR AFFAIRS, IN PRINCIPLE ATTACHED TO THE PRESIDENCY, WILL IN FACT BE PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND WILL HANDLE ALL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE REGIONAL GOVERNENTS. MAJOR SEKOU LY, WHO LEAVES HIS CURRENT POST AS ADMINISTRATOR WCLEGATE (MAYOR) FOR BAMAKO DISTRICT TO FILL THIS NEW FUNCTION, IS AN OLD FRIEND OF THE EMBASSY. LY HAS ACTIVELY PROMOTED A SISTER CITIES EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH ROCHESTER, NEW YORK AND VISITED ROCHESTER IN 1975 AS PART OF AN IV PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES. HIS RECORD AS MANAGER OF BAMAKO IS NOT BRILLIANT BUT AS A CLOSE FRIEND OF PRESIDENT TRAORE, LY IS IDEALLY PLACED TO SERVE AS THE PRESIDENT'S LIAISON WITH THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS.

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10. IN SUM, TWO OUT OF THREE POSTS PREVIOUSLY HELD BY MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO CIVILAINS, THUS RAISING THE CIVILIAN PROFILE IN THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT. THE CIVILIANS CHOSEN ARE LARGELY JUJIOR TECHNOCRATS WHOSE SKILLS IN ADMINISTRATION
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AND POLICY FORMULATION ARE NOT YET TESTED. THE EMBASSY HAS GOOD CONTACTS WITH MANY OF THEM AND HAS SENT SEVERAL IN RECENT YEARS ON EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL TOURS OF THE UNITED STATES. WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO WORK EFFECTIVELY WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN CARRYING OUT U.S. PROGRAMS IN MALI.
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